

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Online worshipers (live stream) are invited to greet the congregation
by writing your name in the YouTube chat.
Please also submit any prayer requests via the YouTube chat
– to be shared during “Prayers of the People.”*

PRELUDE

Just a Closer Walk

Tim Berger, trumpet

CALL TO WORSHIP

Cyndy Hall

One: We come to worship this day, knowing deeply what it means to struggle.

**Many: We remember times in our lives when we’ve felt hopeless,
yearning for someone to care for us.**

One: In this divided climate that might tempt us to ignore the neighbors in our midst,
we need only tap into our own humanity.

**Many: Because we know what it means to struggle, we are challenged each day
to show radical love to our neighbors.**

One: Even those who aren’t like us.

Many: Especially those who aren’t like us.

One: May our worship today help us remember times we have been helped...

Many: ...and how we can become the helpers, and the hope-bearers, in this world.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN

Now is the Time Approaching, #609 NCH (black hymnal)

WORDS OF WELCOME

the Rev. Elissa Johnk

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 1:8-21

Susan Ellwood

TIME OF UNBURDENING

by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

**God of the oppressed, we confess that it’s sometimes easier to ignore those in need
than it is to help them. We confess that we sometimes ask ourselves,
“what will it cost us?” “what will others think?”**

**—rather than remembering your call to care for our neighbors,
whether we think they “deserve it” or not. Forgive us.**

**Help us repent of our embarrassment at those in need,
and turn instead toward empathy and compassion.**

**We pray this in the name of your son,
who teaches us how to love all of our neighbors. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

Hilah Clarke

*Children are always welcome in worship. Those who wish to join their peer groups are invited to follow Hilah
to their classroom after this portion of the service.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week's "Celebrations & Prayer's" list is available for you on the front page of our website – <https://firstchurchburlington.org/> - and among the links under the title of the YouTube live stream throughout this morning's live stream of the worship service.

PASTORAL PRAYER • SILENT PRAYER • LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry, #351 NCH (black hymnal)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace

You are invited to offer monetary gifts

online using this link: <https://bit.ly/fccbonlinegiving>

(also under the video title on YouTube) - you may also give via Venmo @firstchurchbtv -

or by texting FCCBUCC to 73256 - or mail a check payable to:

First Congregational Church at 38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*DOXOLOGY

Praise life that makes us change and grow K. Struckmeyer/Old Hundredth
Praise love that makes compassion flow
Praise peace that ends all strife and fear
Praise hands that work for justice here! Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61

the Rev. Ava Bilton

SERMON

*CLOSING HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God, #12 NCH (black hymnal)

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

When the Saints Go Marching In

**Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit.*